

# Unit 2 - The Parrot

attractive  
captivity

carefree  
coax

desire  
frantic

plead  
release

tragic  
vast

## 2A Introduction

This is the story of a parrot who lived in the jungle. She lived a simple life, flying around, going wherever she wanted. But what would happen if a mean guy decided he wanted to trap her one day? Would it be the end of her freedom?

## 2B Song Lyrics

Listen, listen:

I'm not embarrassed; this is the story of a parrot,  
Who was red and green, the prettiest thing you've ever seen  
She didn't have a name; no wild animal does,  
She's in the jungle; see the trees, she's flying above.  
Yeah, her life is **carefree**, not a worry at all,  
'Cause no animals hunt parrots; the birdie was tall.  
She would fly to Iguazu by the waterfalls,  
Listen to the humans; yeah, she liked how they talked.  
Sitting in her tree, she'd repeat what she heard,  
Until one day, this evil trapper named Bert heard her words.  
He's thinking, "I'm going to trap this bird,  
This beautiful, charming, **attractive** bird."  
He tried to **coax** the bird: "Hey, birdie, come here,"  
He tried to make the bird do what he wanted, you hear?  
Bert was the vilest liar, pulled out a piece of papaya,  
The parrot wanted the fruit; it was what she **desired**.  
She didn't see the net until it was too late!  
Bert said, "I'm going to take you to the United States,  
I'm going to sell you to a lawyer named Mitch.  
Little parrot, ha ha, you're going to make me rich!"



*We're going to make it, if we all just try,  
We're going to make it; baby, we can fly.  
(x2)*

*We're going to fly, man!  
We're going to fly, man!*

Bert had the parrot in a cage on a boat on the river,  
He whistled a tune while he cooked his dinner.  
The parrot, she wasn't feeling too great,  
Held in **captivity**; no, she couldn't escape.  
She tried to talk to Bert with the words she learned,  
She said, "Let me out," but Bert's back was turned.  
And even if he heard, I mean the dude was mean.  
Now she begged and **pleaded** to be free,  
"Waak, please **release** me!" But Bert wouldn't set her free,  
She was shaking, thinking, "This is trouble for me."  
Now she was getting **frantic**, desperate, upset, going to throw a tantrum any moment,  
Trapped in a cage on a boat that's floating, needed someone just to hug or hold hands,  
Hold beaks, hold feet, feel the breeze as she flies away.  
She was more sad than Little Bo Peep, okay? (Sad than Little Bo Peep, okay?)  
But wait! This story's not **tragic**; the ending's not sad,  
Because the parrot started chewing on the lock, man.  
And her beak was so strong just from cracking some nuts,  
And the lock was kind of old; it had started to rust.  
Just when she was almost done hoping,  
She cracked open the lock, and pushed the door open.  
Bert turned around, saw what was going down,  
He grabbed his net, "Hey, birdie, I'm going to get you now!"  
But the parrot took off, and she squawked, "Bye, bye!"  
She was free now in the big, **vast** blue sky.

*We're going to make it, if we all just try,  
We're going to make it; baby, we can fly.  
(x2)*

*We're going to fly, man!  
We're going to fly, man!*

## **2C Words Defined**

### **attractive**

**(adj)** Pleasing to the eye, mind, or senses; having the power to draw attention. *Kyle's dad painted the tree house in an **attractive** blue.*

### **captivity**

**(noun)** The state of being held or imprisoned against one's wishes. *Sitting in jail, the prisoner had lots of time to think about her **captivity**.*

## captivity



### carefree

**(adj)** Without troubles or worries. *I used to think a butterfly's life was **carefree** until I realized that butterflies have to worry about finding food like any other animal.*

### coax

**(verb)** To get someone to do something in a gentle way; to persuade. *Leroy just couldn't **coax** his brother Petey to come outside in the snow.*

### desire

**(verb)** To wish for; to want very much. *As soon as I saw the guitar in the window I **desired** it.*

**(noun)** Something that you want very much ; a longing. *John has a strong **desire** to be a doctor someday.*

### frantic

**(adj)** Very excited or upset; marked by fast, wild, or nervous actions. *As soon as we leave the house, our dog Marbles gets **frantic**.*

### plead

**(verb)** To ask for something that is felt to be very important; to beg. *The robot **pleaded** for me to build him a robot-friend.*



## plead

### release

**(verb)** To let go; to free. *Kicking the wall is not a good way to **release** your energy.*

**(noun)** A freeing or letting go. *After his **release** from prison, Jerry opened a taco stand.*

### tragic

**(adj)** Causing great sadness. *I just got to the **tragic** ending of the play and found out both Romeo and Juliet end up dead.*

### vast

**(adj)** Very big in area or size. *The ocean is so **vast** that you could swim around it your whole life and never be in the same place twice.*

## **2D Synonyms**

Circle the word on the right that matches the meaning of the word or phrase on the left.

- |                        |            |         |          |
|------------------------|------------|---------|----------|
| 1. to let go           | desire     | release | coax     |
| 2. in a cage or prison | captivity  | desire  | release  |
| 3. overexcited         | attractive | frantic | vast     |
| 4. to want very much   | coax       | plead   | desire   |
| 5. beautiful           | attractive | tragic  | carefree |

## **2E Fill in the Blank**

Write the word in the blank so that the sentence makes sense.

1. I had to \_\_\_\_\_ with my parents for months before they agreed to take us to Disneyworld.

**plead**

**release**

**desire**

2. My grandpa keeps a \_\_\_\_\_ amount of bottled water in his house. He says he wants to be ready when aliens land and steal all our water.

**tragic**

**vast**

**carefree**

3. Jacquelyn was \_\_\_\_\_ when she couldn't find the science project she'd been working on for months.

**carefree**

**attractive**

**frantic**

4. There was a \_\_\_\_\_ moment in the movie when the dog died, but it had a happy ending.

**vast**

**desired**

**tragic**

5. My only \_\_\_\_\_ is that my mom and my dad will someday get married again.

**release**

**desire**

**captivity**

## **2F Connections**

Each sentence has a strong connection with one of the words from the unit. Write the correct word on the line below.

1. I had to open a can of tuna fish to get my cat to come out from under the bed.

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2. I've never seen Margaret worried about anything. She doesn't seem to have any problems!

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3. After five long years, the prisoner was finally a free man.

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4. There is such a huge amount of information online; it is hard to find what you need.

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5. I played the PS3 at Hannah's house this weekend, and now all I can think about is how I'm going to get one.

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## **2G Applying Meanings**

Circle the letter that makes sense or answers the question.

1. Which is a **tragic** event?

- (A) a birthday party
- (B) a plane crash
- (C) a wedding
- (D) breakfast

2. What kind of person gets paid for being **attractive**?

- (A) a boxer
- (B) a writer
- (C) a nurse
- (D) a model

3. If you caught a fish and **released** it, that means you

- (A) ate it for dinner
- (B) took a picture of it
- (C) let it go
- (D) had it stuffed

4. What is a **carefree** thing to do?

- (A) laugh
- (B) forget your homework
- (C) cry
- (D) take a test

5. Who would **desire** food the most?

- (A) a chef
- (B) someone who was starving
- (C) a farmer
- (D) someone who had eaten too much

## **2H Reading**

*Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow.*

# **The Life of a Dog**

It's no fun being a dog sometimes. If you're a human, this is probably surprising to hear. Humans think our lives are **carefree**. What do dogs have to worry about? they think. We don't have to buy our own food. We don't have to go to school. Humans think all we do is lie around all day and get petted all night. It sounds pretty nice, doesn't it?

Well, I'm here to tell you that it just isn't that easy. First of all, I live in **captivity**. Sure, I'm free to wander all over the house, but I can't go outside when I want to. I've tried, but my paws can't work the doorknob! When my owners walk in the door at night, I'm usually **frantic**. It's not because I'm so happy to see them; it's because I'm so darn bored!

For another thing, it can be pretty lonely. Just the other day, my owner took me for a walk. We passed the most **attractive** girl dog I have ever seen. I would have loved to stop and talk to her. I might have even asked her out on a date. We could have gone to the dog park together. But no, my owner had something else to do. And what was it? What was so **vastly** important that I could not spend time with the love of my life? My owner had to check his email—for the fifth time that day!

But I know how to handle my owners. I have them well trained. I can almost always **coax** a doggie snack out of them just by doing a trick, like shaking hands or rolling over. And if that doesn't work, I can always **plead** with them. When they eat chicken, they always give the bones to me. They must really like me to give me their delicious bones!

Most of the time, it's not that bad. I have a nice, big pillow to sleep on. My owners treat me well. And I finally figured out how to beat the boredom during the day: My paws don't work so well for opening doors, but they're just the right size for using the remote control!



1. According to the narrator, why do humans think dogs have carefree lives?

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2. Why can't the narrator open the door at his house?

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3. Where would the narrator have taken the girl dog on their date?

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4. What are some tricks the narrator knows?

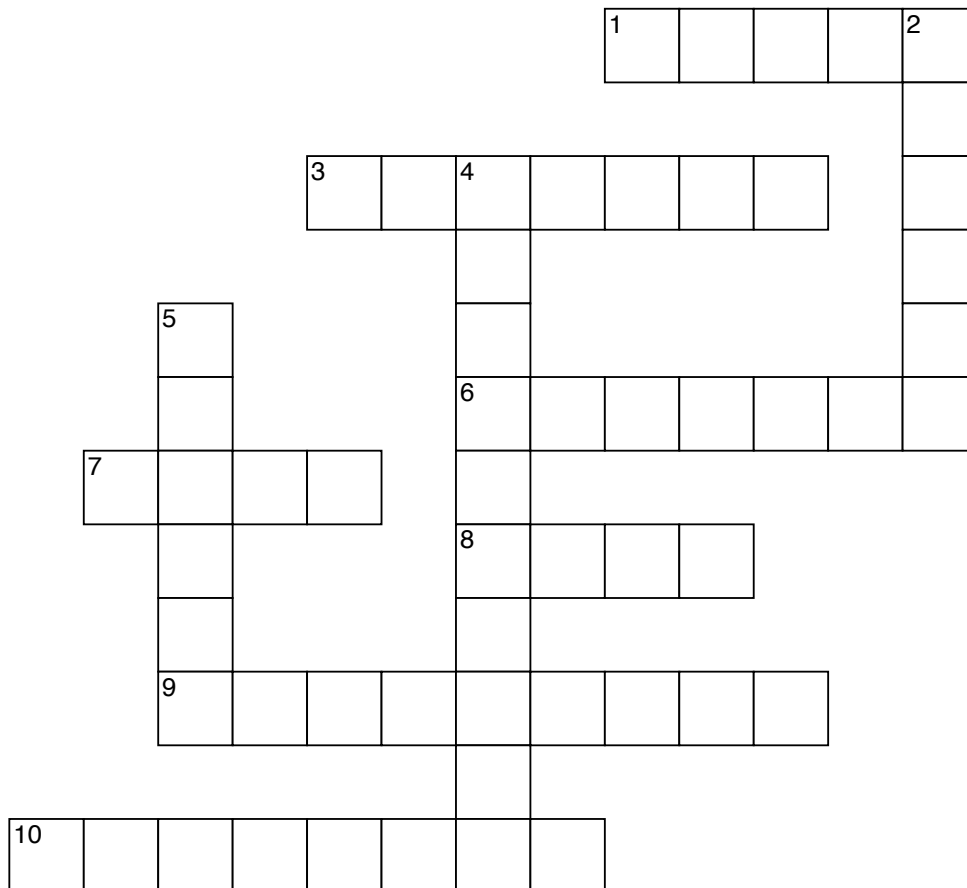
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5. Where does the narrator sleep?

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## Bonus: Crossword Puzzle

Solve this crossword puzzle. Note: Some answers may be different forms of the vocab words from this unit.



### ACROSS

- 1 In a court, the judge will ask if you \_\_\_\_\_ guilty or innocent.
- 3 When my little sister gets \_\_\_\_\_, I am usually the one who calms her down.
- 6 To let go.
- 7 A \_\_\_\_\_ number of people live in China.
- 8 To get someone to do something.
- 9 Zoo animals live in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10 Without any worries.

### DOWN

- 2 If you \_\_\_\_\_ anything while you're staying at our hotel, please let us know and we will get it for you.
- 4 What an \_\_\_\_\_ outfit! It makes you look so good!
- 5 Everyone died at the end of the \_\_\_\_\_ story.